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PATENT APPLICATION
09/745,461

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IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are presented below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating a data message, comprising:

selecting a table key value ~~to be used as an index into~~ in an encryption selection table based on an index that is a function of a periodic key value and a public variable key value, ~~the key value being a function of a periodic key value and a public variable key value~~, the encryption selection table specifying at least one of a plurality of encryption methods to be used to encrypt a data message, the table key value associated with at least one of the plurality of encryption methods;

encrypting the data message using the encryption method associated with the table key value; and

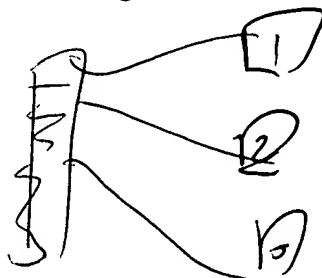
transmitting the encrypted data message over a data communication network.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 and further comprising:
receiving a periodic key value and a public variable key value at a communication device storing the encryption selection table; and

calculating the index ~~table key value~~ from the public variable key value and the periodic key values.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 and further comprising:
selecting a second encryption method also specified by the table key value from the encryption selection table; and

encrypting the data message a second time using the second encryption method prior to transmitting the encrypted message.



4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 wherein the periodic key value comprises a predetermined number agreed upon between a transmitter and a recipient of the data message.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 wherein the public variable key value comprises a numeric value which is variable and which is available to both the recipient and the transmitter of the data message.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A data communication device operable to transmit and receive data messages to and from a data communication network, the device comprising:

a central processing unit operable to interface with a user of the device through a user interface;

an encryption decryption engine under the control of the central processing unit and operable to execute a plurality of encryption programs, each of the encryption programs being different than the remainder of the plurality and each of the encryption programs operable to receive a message and to output an encrypted message; ~~and~~

an encryption selection table accessible using a key value, the encryption selection table specifying at least one of the plurality of encryption programs ~~to be used for~~ associated with each key value; ~~and~~

a communication interface operable to transmit an encrypted message to the user of the device, the encrypted message encrypted using the at least one encryption program specified in the encryption selection table.

7. **(Original)** The device of Claim 6 wherein the encryption selection table specifies a plurality of encryption methods to be used in sequence for each of the key values and wherein the encryption engine is operable to encrypt a data message using each of the plurality of encryption programs in sequence prior to transmitting the encrypted data message.

8. (Original) The device of Claim 6 wherein the key value comprises a table key value and further comprising a user interface operable to prompt a user of the device and to receive a public variable key value and a periodic key value, the table key value calculated as a function of at least one or both of the public variable key value and the periodic key value.

9. (Original) The device of Claim 8 wherein the public variable key value comprises a numeric value which is variable and which is available to both the recipient and the transmitter of the data message.

10. (Original) The device of Claim 8 wherein the periodic key value comprises a predetermined number agreed upon between a transmitter and a recipient of the data message.

11. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the table key value comprises determining which table key value in the encryption selection table is approximately equal to the index.

12. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein calculating the index comprises using a pre-determined mathematical function to calculate the index.

13. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising encrypting the data message with at least two encryption methods in a specific sequence as provided in the encryption selection table.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, further comprising decrypting the data message by executing the encryption methods in an opposite sequence as provided in the encryption selection table.

15. (New) A method for communicating a data message, comprising:

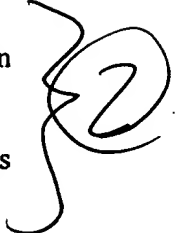
receiving a periodic key value and a public variable key value at a communication device storing an encryption selection table;

calculating an index from the public variable key value and the periodic key values using a pre-determined mathematical function;

selecting a table key value in the encryption selection table based on the calculated index, the encryption selection table specifying at least one of a plurality of encryption methods to be used to encrypt a data message, the table key value associated with at least one of the plurality of encryption methods;

encrypting the data message using the encryption method associated with the table key value; and

transmitting the encrypted data message over a data communication network.



16. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

selecting a second encryption method also specified by the table key value from the encryption selection table; and

encrypting the data message a second time using the second encryption method prior to transmitting the encrypted message.

17. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the periodic key value comprises a predetermined number agreed upon between a transmitter and a recipient of the data message.

18. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the public variable key value comprises a numeric value which is variable and which is available to both the recipient and the transmitter of the data message.

19. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein selecting the table key value comprises determining which table key value in the encryption selection table is approximately equal to the calculated index.

20. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising encrypting the data message with at least two encryption methods in a specific sequence as provided in the encryption selection table.

21. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising decrypting the data message by executing the encryption methods in an opposite sequence as provided in the encryption selection table.